



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 621

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5052

House of Representatives, April 17, 2014

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of section 17a-17 of the general statutes, for the fiscal years
3 ending June 30, 2014, to June 30, 2018, inclusive, the provisions of
4 section 17a-17 of the general statutes shall not be considered in any
5 increases or decreases to rates or allowable per diem payments to
6 private residential treatment centers licensed pursuant to section 17a-
7 145 of the general statutes.

8 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-802 of the general statutes is
9 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
10 *1, 2014*):

11 (a) The Commissioner of Housing shall establish, within available
12 appropriations, and administer a security deposit guarantee program
13 for persons who (1) (A) are recipients of temporary family assistance,

14 aid under the state supplement program, or state-administered general
15 assistance, or (B) have a documented showing of financial need, and
16 (2) (A) are residing in emergency shelters or other emergency housing,
17 cannot remain in permanent housing due to any reason specified in
18 subsection (a) of section 17b-808, or are served a writ, summons and
19 complaint in a summary process action instituted pursuant to chapter
20 832, or (B) have a certificate or voucher from a rental assistance
21 program or federal Section 8 [certificate or voucher] program. Under
22 [such] the security deposit guarantee program, the Commissioner of
23 Housing may provide security deposit guarantees for use by such
24 persons in lieu of a security deposit on a rental dwelling unit. Eligible
25 persons may receive a security deposit guarantee in an amount not to
26 exceed the equivalent of two months' rent on such rental unit. No
27 person may apply for and receive a security deposit guarantee more
28 than once in any eighteen-month period without the express
29 authorization of the Commissioner of Housing, except as provided in
30 subsection (b) of this section. The Commissioner of Housing may deny
31 eligibility for the security deposit guarantee program to an applicant
32 for whom the commissioner has paid two claims by landlords. The
33 Commissioner of Housing shall prioritize provision of security deposit
34 guarantees to eligible veterans and may establish priorities for
35 providing security deposit guarantees to other eligible persons
36 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (2) of this
37 subsection in order to administer the program within available
38 appropriations.

39 Sec. 3. Section 17b-617 of the general statutes is repealed and the
40 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

41 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available
42 appropriations, establish and operate a state-funded pilot program to
43 allow not more than [fifty] one hundred persons with disabilities (1)
44 who are age eighteen to sixty-four, inclusive, (2) who are
45 inappropriately institutionalized or at risk of inappropriate
46 institutionalization, and (3) whose assets do not exceed the asset limits
47 of the state-funded home care program for the elderly, established

48 pursuant to subsection (i) of section 17b-342, to be eligible to receive
 49 the same services that are provided under the state-funded home care
 50 program for the elderly. At the discretion of the Commissioner of
 51 Social Services, such persons may also be eligible to receive services
 52 that are necessary to meet needs attributable to disabilities in order to
 53 allow such persons to avoid institutionalization.

54 (b) Any person participating in the pilot program whose income
 55 exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level shall
 56 contribute to the cost of care in accordance with the methodology
 57 established for recipients of medical assistance pursuant to sections
 58 5035.20 and 5035.25 of the department's uniform policy manual.

59 (c) The annualized cost of services provided to an individual under
 60 the pilot program shall not exceed fifty per cent of the weighted
 61 average cost of care in nursing homes in the state.

62 (d) If the number of persons eligible for the pilot program
 63 established pursuant to this section exceeds [fifty] one hundred
 64 persons or if the cost of the program exceeds available appropriations,
 65 the commissioner shall establish a waiting list designed to serve
 66 applicants by order of application date.

67 Sec. 4. Section 19a-402 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 68 *July 1, 2014*)

69 Sec. 5. Section 15 of public act 13-184 is repealed. (*Effective from*
 70 *passage*)

| | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2014</i> | 17b-802(a) |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2014</i> | 17b-617 |
| Sec. 4 | <i>July 1, 2014</i> | Repealer section |
| Sec. 5 | <i>from passage</i> | Repealer section |

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1, section 15 of public act 13-184 has been restated as new language because the provisions of section 1 extend until June 30, 2018, under the bill and therefore should be codified. If section 1 were to be codified, then section 15 of public act 13-184 is no longer needed and therefore is repealed in section 5 of the bill.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 15 \$ | FY 16 \$ |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Children & Families, Dept. | GF - Cost Avoidance | None | 4.1 million |
| Housing, Dept. | GF - Cost | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Social Services, Dept. | GF - Cost | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| Office of the Chief Medical Examiner | GF - Cost | 193,600 | 202,399 |
| State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹ | GF - Cost | 70,996 | 74,199 |

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a fiscal impact to various state agencies, enumerated below.

Section 1 extends a suspension of Department of Children and Families (DCF) per diem rate increases to private residential treatment facilities that it licenses, and the educational services provided on-site by such facilities, from FY 14 and FY 15 into FY 16 through FY 18. This results in cost avoidance to the agency of approximately \$4.1 million in FY 16 and approximately \$5.4 million in both FY 17 and FY 18. The system that determines these increases, known as the Single Cost Accounting System, is detailed in DCF regulations 17a-17-1 through 17a-17-16.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.66% of payroll in FY 15 and FY 16. The FY 16 costs assume a 3% General Wage Increase and a 3% Annual Increment effective January 1st.

Section 2 requires the Commissioner of Housing to prioritize veterans in the security deposit program. sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriates \$50,000 to support veterans in the program.

Section 3 increases the Adults with Disabilities Pilot Program under the Connecticut Home Care Program from 50 slots to 100. Funding of \$600,000 is included in sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee for the additional slots.

Section 4 repeals CGS Sec. 19a-402, which moved the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (CME) within the University of Connecticut Health Center for administrative purposes only. sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriates \$193,660 for salaries and \$70,996 in fringe benefits for three full-time positions (two Fiscal Administrative Officers and an Accountant) to provide human resources and financial services support to CME in-house. The FY 16 cost for salary and fringe benefits is \$276,598 (\$202,399 in salaries and \$74,199 in fringe benefits).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5052*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes administrative and programmatic changes to certain statutes governing the Departments of Children and Families (DCF), Social Services (DSS), and Housing (DOH).

The bill extends a current moratorium, from FY 15 through FY 18, on DCF per-diem rate increases for private residential treatment facilities it licenses. It does so by (1) removing a provision from PA 13-184 that eliminates such increases for FY 14 and FY 15 and (2) adding a new provision that eliminates such increases for FY 14 through FY 18.

The bill increases, from 50 to 100, the number of people who may receive services through DSS' Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPD). CHCPD provides home- and community-based services to certain people with disabilities as an alternative to nursing home care.

The law requires DOH, through its Security Deposit Guarantee Program and within available appropriations, to provide security deposit guarantees (payment for any damages that occur) to financially eligible people living in emergency housing or receiving a government rental subsidy. The bill requires the housing commissioner to prioritize providing these guarantees to eligible veterans. The law also allows her to establish priorities for providing guarantees to eligible applicants in order to administer the program within available appropriations.

Finally, the bill repeals a provision that places the nine-member

Commission on Medicolegal Investigations (CMI) and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) under the University of Connecticut Health Center for administrative purposes only. (Presumably, CMI and OCME will assume their own administrative functions.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014, except for the DCF rate provision, which is effective upon passage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/18/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 47 Nay 0 (04/01/2014)